**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

This object is achieved by a drainage channel defining a channel compartment and comprising an elongate molded body defining an upper surface over which vehicles can travel and which itself defines inlet openings that open into said channel compartment, side walls, a floor, and end faces adapted for connection to additional drainage installations such that the channel compartment is defined by a ceiling boundary surface nearest said upper surface, side boundary surfaces and a base boundary surface, said ceiling boundary surface being parallel to said upper surface and at least one side boundary surface and at least one of said base boundary surface and said ceiling boundary surface defining a ~~conical~~ tapering of said channel compartment in a direction from one of said end faces to said other end face. In a second aspect of the invention an apparatus for manufacturing such a drainage channel is provided, comprising a molding box defining at least a floor and side walls; at least one core adapted to be pulled out of said molding box and adapted to form a channel compartment that defines a cross section which tapers ~~conically~~ along its long direction and which is defined by a planar bottom surface that extends parallel to said floor, and a set of long cores adapted to form inlet openings and to taper ~~conically~~ as they extend from said floor to said at least one core.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

The success of the invention resides in the fact that the channel compartment has a ~~conical~~ configuration such that a solid core, or else two solid cores ~~that~~ taper ~~conically~~ from the channel ends toward one another, can be used to produce the channel. Whereas in previously known channels care was always taken to delimit the channel compartment by exactly parallel surfaces, with the exception at most of a tilted bottom surface, the present invention takes an entirely different approach. That is, it is accepted that channels abutting one another are offset at their interfaces or (when two cores are used) depressions and elevations and/or constrictions and expansions of the channel

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compartment will be produced in the long direction of a series of channels. Surprisingly, it has turned out that such steps or changes in cross section have only a negligible influence on the risk of contamination as well as on the hydraulic properties of the drainage channels.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Preferably the inlet openings are shaped so as to taper ~~conically~~ from the upper surface to the channel compartment. As a result, at the time during manufacture of the drainage channel when removal from the mold occurs, the cores to form the inlet openings need not be pulled back into the core that runs in the long direction of the channel; instead, removal from the mold can be achieved by enlarging the space between this set of cores and the longitudinal core. This design of the inlet openings is also unusual because what was previously desired was precisely the reverse direction of ~~conicity~~ taper of the opening cross sections. Surprisingly, however, it has been found that even with relatively slight expansion of the opening cross sections there is no danger of contamination.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The boundary surface at the ceiling of the channel compartment in a preferred embodiment of the invention is provided with a sheet of reinforcing or filtering textile or similar flat material. This in turn is made possible only by the ~~conicity~~ taper of the channel compartment and the resulting installation procedure, because the set of cores to form the drainage openings is seated on the core that runs in the long direction of the drainage channel, so that the sheet of material can be applied to this contact surface and cast along with the channel.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

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The apparatus for manufacturing the drainage channel comprises a molding box that has at least a floor and side walls, at least one core that can be pulled out of the molding box to form an interior channel compartment, the cross section of which becomes smaller in its long direction to form a ~~conical~~ tapered shape, and a set of cores to form inlet openings, which taper ~~conically~~ from the floor of the box to the longitudinal core. The arrangement is thus definitely simple. Before the product has completely finished hardening, the channel together with the core is pressed upward. With this procedure it cannot happen that when shrinkage begins, the product shrinks onto the cores of the inlet openings and possibly fractures. The ~~conical~~ core in turn has an abrasion-resistant surface in the contact area or comprises (as a whole) an abrasion-resistant material. The ~~conical~~ core is then pulled out of the product.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

In the upper surface 11 of the body 10 inlet openings 20, 20' are provided, which taper ~~conically~~ from top to bottom as they pass through the wall, i.e. into the channel compartment 30. The inlet openings 20, 20' preferably are rectangular in cross section, in particular having edges 21, 21' at their outer ends that are substantially linear. This construction makes it possible to provide lateral inlet openings 23 (see Fig. 3) that open into the (vertical) inlet openings 20, 20'. Owing to the linear shape of the edges 21, 21' the inflow cross section can be maximized while still enabling simple shaping of the cores needed to form the lateral inlet openings 23.

Please remove the following paragraph beginning on page 7, line 27:

~~List of reference numerals~~

~~1 Body~~

~~11 Upper surface~~

~~12 Side wall~~

~~13 Side wall~~

~~14 Floor~~

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~~15 End face~~
~~16 End face~~
~~17 Sealing junction~~
~~18 Sealing material~~
~~19, 19' Marginal strips~~
~~20, 20' Inlet opening~~
~~21, 21' Rim~~
~~23 Lateral inlet opening~~
~~25, 25' End face inlet opening~~
~~27 Sheet of material~~
~~30 Interior of channel~~
~~31 Ceiling boundary surface~~
~~32 Side boundary surface~~
~~33 Side boundary surface~~
~~34 Base boundary surface~~
~~40 Molding box~~
~~41 Floor~~
~~42 Core~~
~~43 Lower surface~~
~~44 Set of cores~~
~~45 Side wall~~
~~46 Side wall~~
~~47 End wall~~
~~48 End wall~~

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